



## Grand Commander



**Brandon Penley**

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### **We Need Your Help!**

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✦ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✦ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

Editor: Larry Aydlett  
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## Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope you have all had a wonderful month. On Wednesday, September 13, I was able to attend the Order of the Temple at Castle McCulloch. I want to welcome the fifteen new Sir Knights who received the Order of the Temple at this event. The order was conferred by Sir Knight Jeffrey Bolstad the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. Sir Knight Bolstad is an excellent ritualist and I truly enjoyed seeing him confer the Order of the Temple. I would encourage all Sir Knights if you ever have the opportunity to see Sir Knight Bolstad confer the Order of the Temple that you take advantage of that opportunity. I want to thank all of the Sir Knights who helped make this a success.

I along with several other of your Grand Commandery officers had the pleasure of attending the Mid Atlantic Department Conference on Saturday, September 23. I want to thank Sir Knights Ray Casey, Mike Hoff, and Mark Alexander for attending this conference with me. It was a great conference and I truly enjoyed hearing from all of the other Grand Commandery officers from the other states in the Mid Atlantic Department.

I would like to thank everyone who came to this year's annual communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the York Rite table in the vendor room. I also want to congratulate Sir Knight Don Kehler on being elected to serve as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for the 2024 year. I want to congratulate Sir Knight Dave Cashion, who is currently serving as Grand Sentinel of our Grand Commandery, on his appointment as

Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

I want to remind all Sir Knights of the upcoming homecoming at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. This will also be a celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MHCO. I hope that all Sir Knights will come out and participate.

I want to take a moment to talk about one of the charities of the Grand Encampment. I have previously mentioned the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in my article for July. I now want to mention the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, which has the mission statement of sending "credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical/cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise." This is a great Opportunity for us as Sir Knights to have a true and lasting impact on those around us who preach and teach God's word. I can only imagine the way it changes the lives of the ministers who get to attend.

I truly believe that this trip will change these ministers' lives forever. It will make them better preachers and better enable them to reach those who are lost. I believe this is a charity that is worthy of our attention and assistance as Sir Knights. We profess a belief in Jesus as our savior and this allows us to give those who have dedicated their lives to sharing God's word a truly powerful and life altering experience.

Fraternally in Christ,

Brandon Penley

Grand Commander



**A Message From Mike Pritchard,**  
**NC KTEF Chairman**

Greetings Sir Knights,

I am writing to you at the request of RE Grand Commander Brandon Penley, on the status of NC's contribution to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. We just finished the 55<sup>th</sup> Campaign that ran from June 1, 2022 through May 15, 2023, with \$41,161.75 contributed! Thank you for your contributions last year. Currently, we just finished the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the 56<sup>th</sup> Campaign running from June 1, 2023 through May 15, 2024, with \$9,377.61. We are trending to be behind last year's number by about \$5,000.



*"A Masonic Charity"*

North Carolina is working towards a goal of being 100% KTEF Life Sponsorship for the first time. I would like to thank REPGCs Fred Whitty and Sparky Travis for their previous work as NC KTEF Chairmen in getting us as close to 100% as we

are. Sir Knights, we are only 80 Sir Knights away from attaining this goal. Please help us to reach this 100% as soon as possible. It doesn't need to be one check written at the end of the year for it to count. A best practice is to add into your bylaws that you raise your initiation fee and affiliation fee by \$30 to cover this lifetime sponsorship when the application fee is paid by the future Sir Knight.

Commanderies that are still not 100%;

- ✘ 2- Charlotte: 9 members
- ✘ 3- Durham: 1 member
- ✘ 6- Piedmont: 5 members
- ✘ 7- Mount Lebanon: 1 member
- ✘ 8- Ivanhoe: 12 members
- ✘ 14- Griggs: 3 members
- ✘ 19- Malta: 1 member
- ✘ 20- Palestine: 5 members
- ✘ 21- St. Bernard: 39 members
- ✘ 41- Nazareth: 4 members

Remember that if a Sir Knight is a plural member of more than 1 commandery, then that Sir Knight needs to be a Life Sponsor of each commandery for the commandery to receive credit.

Continue to carry the banner of our Savior into battle every day, remember the charity box, and thank you!

SK Mike Pritchard, KYCH  
NC KTEF Chairman

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*This article was contributed by SK Mike Pritchard*

**Grand Commandery to March in**  
**MHCO Homecoming Parade**

**Oxford** – The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford's Homecoming Parade is set for Saturday, October 14th at 11:00 am. We are looking for volunteers who would like to march in the parade representing our Grand Commandery. REPGC Ludwik Wodka is spearheading this effort, and offers the following instructions for any Sir Knights who wish to march in the parade unit:

- ✘ Send an email before Friday, October 13, to Ludwik to let him know you would like to participate: [ludwikwodka@yahoo.com](mailto:ludwikwodka@yahoo.com)
- ✘ Wear your full regulation Class-A uniform, with belt, sword, and chapeau.
- ✘ On Saturday, **please report to the corner of E. McClanahan and College Streets no later than 10:15 am.** You can either have someone drop you off near the Fire Department or park at MHCO and ride a van shuttle to the parade starting point. **The shuttle vans depart from the front of the St. John's Administrative Building, near the main stage.** Parade staff will assist you once you arrive at the parade starting point.

The MHCO respectfully asks that for our event you do not distribute any political materials or display a political sign on the vehicle in the parade.

Please contact Ludwik Wodka at (919) 349-3734 or email at [ludwikwodka@yahoo.com](mailto:ludwikwodka@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

*This article was contributed by REPGC Ludwik Wodka*

**RE Deputy Grand Master Bolstad Joins**  
**Nazareth #41 and Ivanhoe #8 to Confer the**  
**Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough**

**Jamestown** – On Wednesday, September 13, 2023, R. E. Jeffrey A. Bolstad, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA, and the officers and Sir Knights of Nazareth #41 of Southern Pines and Ivanhoe #8 of Greensboro,

conferred the Order of the Temple onto 16 new Sir Knights, with a special public knighting for friends and family afterward.



REDGM Jeffrey Bolstad (c) with REGC Ted C. Thomas (l), and REGC Brandon Penley (r) at the "Castle Degree" at Castle McCullough

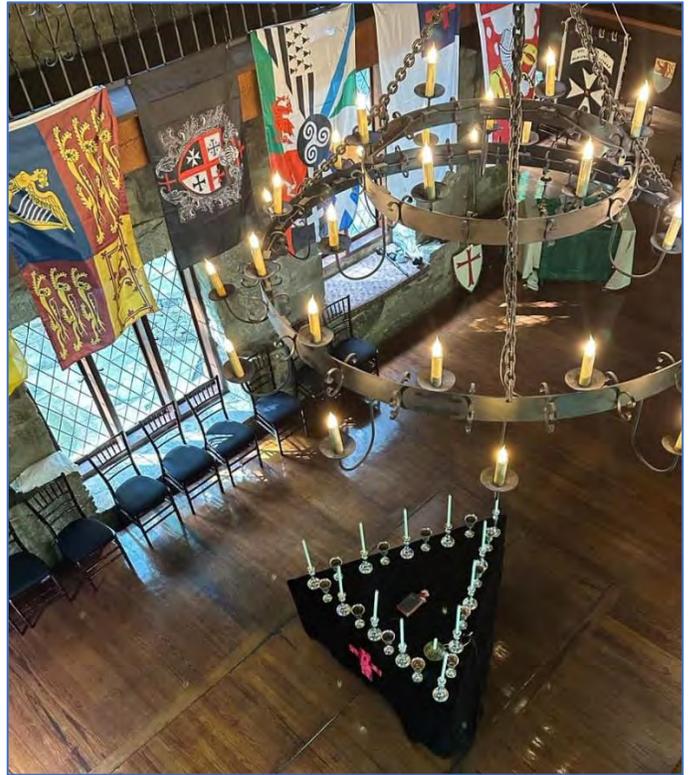
REDGM Bolstad was joined by REGC Brandon Penley, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina, and REGC Ted C. Thomas, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of South Carolina, and other Grand Officers from both states and Sir Knights from several other Commanderies in North Carolina.



After the degree, the candidates proceeded to the Crystal Ballroom, a beautiful vaulted-ceiling hall up the hill from the castle, where they were joined by friends and family to celebrate their completion of their York Rite degrees. Sir Knights Larry Aydlett and



Paul Woodruff, accompanied by Paul's two sons who last year were made honorary Squires, assisted REPGC Mike Daniels in performing a public knighting ceremony for the benefit of the candidates and their loved ones.



**Important Reminders:**

- October 7:** Last day to register for the Super-Excellent Degree in Fayetteville.
- October 13-15:** Annual Homecoming Festival at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
- December 10:** York Rite Christmas Observance at the York Rite Chapel on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

More photos from the "Castle Degree" at Castle McCullough...

